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Duty Cycle

Duty cycle is the measurement made of pulse width modulated circuits, such as a charcoal canister purge solenoid. The higher the duty cycle, the longer the on-time of that circuit. The higher the on-time, the higher the flow rate, or purging of the canister. 100% duty cycle means the solenoid is on all the time. 10% duty cycle means that the circuit is energized only a small portion of the time. The ECU determines when to purge the canister and at what flow rate based upon such variables as engine temperature, how long the engine has been running since startup, vehicle speed and other parameters.

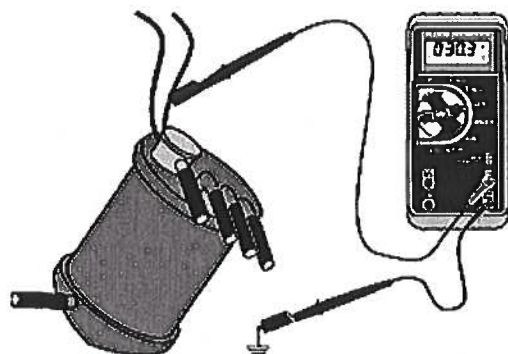


Figure 19 - Measuring Duty Cycle on a Charcoal Cannister To measure the duty cycle of a solenoid, attach the red lead to the signal wire and the black lead to a good engine ground. Select duty cycle and read the value directly.

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